

What is claimed is:

1. A method of operating a device which is connected to a vehicle communications network (7, 8) the device being switched off,

wherein a bus manager (1) detects that data communication with the switched-off device is necessary, and then the switched-off device is reactivated by the bus manager (1) via a frequency pulse transmitted over a power supply line (8).

2. The method according to Claim 1,

wherein the frequency pulse is compared with a threshold value by an analyzer circuit (9, 10) of the switched-off device, and when the signal power of the frequency pulse exceeds the threshold, the switched-off device is reactivated.

3. The method according to Claim 2,

wherein the device is switched off by a frequency pulse, the frequency pulse being transmitted at a frequency which is detected by at least one analyzer circuit (9, 10) of a device of the vehicle communications network (7, 8).

4. The method according to Claim 2,

wherein all the devices downstream from the switched-off device in a branch of the vehicle communications network (7, 8) are also switched off, and devices downstream from the reactivated device are also reactivated.

5. The method according to one of Claims 3 or 4,

wherein the device is switched off and reactivated by the bus manager (1).

6. The method according to one of Claims 3 or 4,

wherein the device shuts itself down and is reactivated by the bus manager (1).

7. A device for carrying out the method according to one of Claims 1 through 6,

wherein the device has the analyzer circuit (9, 10), and the analyzer circuit has a

8. A bus manager for carrying out the method according to one of the Claims 1 through 6.